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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,390	02/12/2004	Craig M. Bethke	9080/91463 (BET 101.1 US)	4605
24628	7590	09/19/2005	EXAMINER	
WELSH & KATZ, LTD 120 S RIVERSIDE PLAZA 22ND FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60606			BARRY, CHESTER T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1724	

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/777,390

Applicant(s)

BETHKE, CRAIG M.

Examiner

Chester T. Barry

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8,9 and 11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,10 and 12-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/12/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

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Claims 1 – 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Price. USP 6143195 to Price describes applying an aqueous alkaline solution (a mixture of “highly reactive calcium oxide with lower reactive calcium carbonate,” col 2 line 63, hereinafter simply 2/63) to a groundwater-bearing formation and contacting a mineral compound (pyrite, 2/66) within the formation with the alkaline solution. In the course of doing so, the high pH environment caused by the calcium oxide combining with water forms calcium hydroxide which facilitates the ionic substitution of calcium for sodium into the clay crystal structure. This ionic substitution is said to “expand the structure of the clay mineralogy, allowing water to drain more freely from the clay substratum, thereby providing near term dewatering of the sulfide [i.e., pyrite mineral] bearing material. 3/63-4/6. Accordingly, the Price method has the effect of converting the mineral compound (pyrite) to a form having a higher metal contaminant sorption capacity than the initial metal contaminant sorption capacity,” as recited in claim 1. per claim 2, Price’s alkaline solution is injected into the formation.

Claims 3, 10, 14, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The phrase “one or more of . . . or combinations thereof” is confusing. Correction is required.

Claims 4, 12 – 19 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1, 12 - 19 of copending Application No. 10/741728.

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This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Objection is made to claims 5 – 7 as dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowed if presented in independent form.

20040245185, 5008019, 4637465, 4340253 are cited of interest for their disclosure of adding aqueous alkaline solutions to groundwater-bearing formations for various reasons.


CHESTER T. BARRY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

571-272-1152